

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (currently amended) Procedure to handle short messages under phone number portability between several telecommunications networks ~~(12; 16; 20)~~, where the phone numbers do not permit an unambiguous linkage of the user to a specific telecommunication network and where several attempts at delivery of the short messages are possible, and where the parameters or data required for delivery of the short message, particularly target information, are determined during the first attempt at delivery, characterized by having all or part of the parameters or data relating to the first attempt at delivery, specifically the target information, stored in the SMS center SMSC ~~(13)~~ handling the transaction together with the short message to be delivered, where they are reused, at least in part, in subsequent attempts at delivery.

Claim 2. (currently amended) Procedure according to Claim 1, characterized by having the short message to be delivered and the HLR address of the home register HLR ~~(18)~~ containing the required target information obtained during the first attempt at delivery stored temporarily in an SMS center SMSC ~~(13)~~ involved in the transaction.

Claim 3. (currently amended) Procedure according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized by having the target information contained in HLR ~~(18)~~ queried directly from HLR ~~(18)~~ by use of the HLR address stored in SMSC ~~(13)~~ during subsequent attempts at delivery.

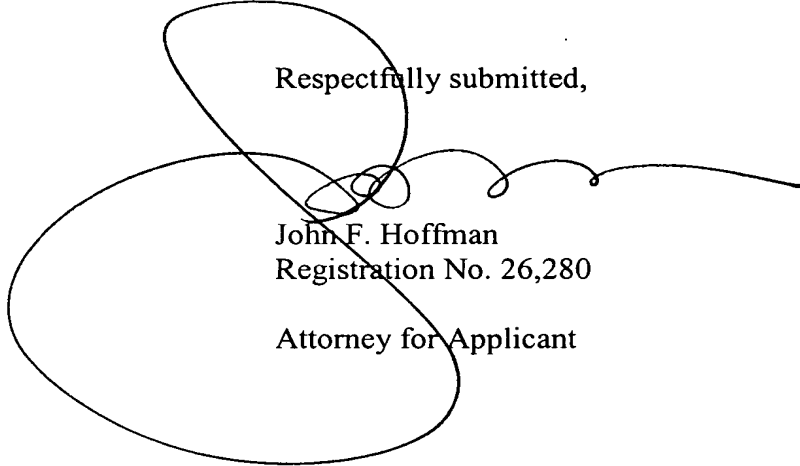
Claim 4. (currently amended) Procedure according to Claim 3, characterized by having the query of HLR ~~(18)~~ use an SS7 channel.

Claim 5. (currently amended) Structure to handle short messages under phone number portability between multiple telecommunications networks ~~(12; 16; 20)~~, where the phone numbers do not permit an unambiguous linkage of the user to a specific telecommunication network and where several attempts at delivery of the short messages are possible, and where the parameters or data required for delivery of the short message, particularly target information, are determined during the first attempt at delivery, characterized by having a storage unit or storage space reserved to store all or part of the parameter or data relating to the first attempt at delivery, specifically target information, in the SMS center SMSC ~~(14)~~ involved in the transaction, where such storage is associated with the temporary storage location housing the short message to be delivered, and where the stored

parameters or data, specifically the target information, are used at least in part in subsequent attempts at delivery.

Claim 6. (new) Procedure according to Claim 2, characterized by having the target information contained in HLR queried directly from HLR by use of the HLR address stored in SMSC during subsequent attempts at delivery.

Respectfully submitted,



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